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PC-ads

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August 1–15, 1986

Local Bulletin Board Allows Multiple Users To Talk To Each Other

(Article begins on page 7)

"Madlyn Belle" plays POPnet's Star Traders with "Dr. Sneeze", "SYSOP" and the computer.

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(more)

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The PC-ads objective is to improve communications among PC enthusiasts and owners in the DC metropolitan area. As such, we welcome any news items regarding the opening or closing of local businesses as well as hints and tips that are of particular interest to our community.

PC-ads feels that advertisements, in the fast changing personal computer world, represent news in their own right, and exposing the computing public to the messages of local merchants in an affordable way helps satisfy our objective. News stories are intended to be limited and brief, in respect to the many reading demands placed on computer enthusiast. Followup phone numbers are provided as often as possible so that detailed information can be secured on an individual basis if required.

HARDWARE FOR SALE--

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USER GROUPS--

ANNAPOLIS CHAMELEON USERS GROUP...Meets 1st Tues, 7:30pm at Computers, Etc., 157-A Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park. Open to all Seequa computer & MSDOS users, w/ demonstrations, pub. domain lib., help for all. Hal Van Aller 269-2101, 757-8763

ATARI - NATIONAL CAPITAL ATARI USERS GROUP (formerly Downtown Wash. Atari Gp.) meets the 3rd Tues. of ea. mo. 5:30 - 7:30pm in Rm. 543, 1800 G St. N.W., Wash. D.C. BBS, public domain lib., newsletter. Call Peter Kilcullen (202) 296-5700

ATARI USERS.....Atari Users Regional Assoc. meets the 1st Thurs. at 7pm at Temple Israel, 420 E. Univ. Blvd., Silver Spring, MD (new location). (In May & July only, meetings will be 2nd Thurs.) Call Richard Stoll (301) 946-8435

CAPITAL AREA IBM PC JR & COMPATIBLES COMPUTER CLUB...meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:00am-12:00 noon at the Hyattsville Public Library, Adelphi Rd, Hyattsville, MD. For further info call Lowell at (301) 262-8275 (Bowie)

CAPITAL AREA TIMEX/SINCLAIR USER GP. (CATS)..Meets 2nd Sat. of mo. at the New Carrollton Pub. Library, 2:00pm. Hardware & software workshops, n/1, demos, etc. Contact Jules Gesang 922-0767 (Balto) or Mark Fisher (301) 589-7407 (D.C. area)

USER GROUPS--

CAPITAL DATAFLEX USER GROUP..3rd Wed. of each month at Martin Luther King Library in room 315 at 1:30 pm. 901 G St. N.W. ---From Gallery Place Metro stop. For details call Christine 357-1955.

CAPITAL HEATH USER GROUP-Z100 Special Interest Group, meetsthe first Monday of the month at 7:30pm at the Heath Zenith Electronic Center, 5542 Nicholson La., Rockville, MD. Please call Jerry Horwitz at 384-1040 for information.

CAPITAL HEATH USER GROUP.....Business Applications Special Interest Group, meets the 2nd Monday of every month at the Heath Zenith Electronic Center in Alexandria, VA at 7:00pm. Please call Glen Deal at 978-8834 for information.

CAPITAL HEATH USER GROUP.....Meets the 3rd Monday of every month at Fairfax High School, Fairfax, VA at 7:00pm. Please call CHUG Voice at (703) 339-9857 for information.

CAPITAL OSBORNE USERS GROUP....meets the 4th Thursday of the month at the Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, MD. 6:30pm disk copying of CP/M & DOS libraries. 7:00pm meeting. Call 330-8711 eves. & weekends for info.

CAPITAL PC USERS GROUP...(IBM PC & Compatible Users Helping Users) meets Mon & Tues of the second week of the mo. at the Uniformed Services Univ. of the Health Sciences, on the grounds of the Naval Hospital (Bethesda) 656-8372 for info.

(Continued on page 6)

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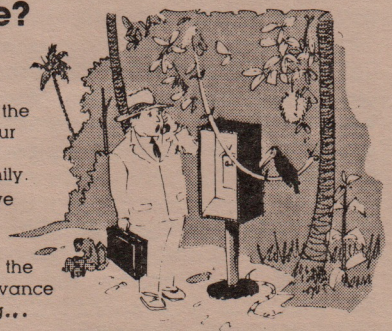

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USER GROUPS--

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CHUSY - IBM PC & Compatible User Group... Meets at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Parsons Auditorium, Laurel, MD the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Call Ed Kidera at (301) 997-9333 for info. (Columbia, MD)

COLECO ADAM USER GROUP.....The group meets the third Saturday of each month. Call Robert Blair at (703) 971-6465 for details and further information.

COMPUPRO (S-100) NATIONAL USERS GROUP....runs BBS for international group of CompuPro owners (1400 members in 50 states, 11 countries, 4 continents). $24/year for typeset magazine. P.O. Box 2146, Woodbridge, VA 22193

CP/M USERS GROUP OF WASHINGTON, D.C.....meets the 3rd Wed. of the month at the U.S. Dept. of Labor, 3rd & C Street N.W. Room N4437, Washington, D.C. Write P.O. Box 891, Wash. D.C. 20044 for free copy of newsletter.

DEC RAINBOW USERS GROUP.....Meetings usually held 2nd Tuesday of each month at USUHS from 7-9pm. Newsletter, large public domain library, contacts! Call (301) 949-1560 or (703) 280-4404 for information.

EAGLE USER GROUP.....Wash. Area Eagle Users' Group meets at 7:30pm the first Thurs. of every month at the Ekoji Temple, 8134 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield, VA. Call John Baer at 323-6952 for info. Newsletter, library, etc.,$15/yr

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ECCO, EPSON CAPITAL COMPUTER ORGANIZATION... Meets 2nd Wed. of mo. at Fellowship Hall, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Rd., Vienna, VA. Computer Supply Service Store, Pub. Dom. Util Disks, SIGS. Epson or similar computers.

FRANCONIA COMMODORE USERS GROUP ...meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the John Marshall Public Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA. For more information, call (703) 971-0429.

GET SUPPORT AND HELP FROMone of the many great user groups in the DC area. The ads in this section have up-to-date information on groups that you can join or visit to get the full pleasure and productivity from your PC.

GREATER BALTO-WASH OSBORNE U.G.....Users Group of Osborne, CP/M and MS-DOS computer owners. Affiliated with FOG. Meets 3rd week of month in Columbia, MD at Florence Bain Sr. Ctr., 7:00pm. For info call (301) 953-1861 or (301) 992-4695.

HYATTSVILLE 64 USERS CLUB..... We meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm, at the PG Plaza Community Center, Adelphi Rd & Toledo Terr., Hyattsville, MD. (across Toledo Terr. from the library). Call (301) 779-8369 for info.

WHEN ANSWERING OUR CLASSIFIEDS PLEASE MENTION PC-ads.

USER GROUPS--

K STREET PC USERS GROUP (for IBM & compatibles) ..... meets Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00 every week in Farragut Square. Free public domain software for those who bring a blank disk. For details call Roger Cutler (301) 493-8824 weekdays 10 - 4.

KAYPRO USERS GROUP meets first Thurs. of the month at USUHS, 7:00 pm, 4302 Jones Bridge Rd., Bethesda. Actively supporting both CP/M and MS-DOS computers. Phone 547-6622 for more information.

METRO PCjr USERS GROUP...meets monthly at the Gaithersburg Library, 7pm. First Wed. of each mo. Open to all. Membership $20/yr includes newsletter, free use of software library, telephone tech support. Info: 946-1729 or 384-2847.

METROPOLITAN NEC MICROCOMPUTER USERS SOCIETY..... supports ALL NEC Microcomputers. For more information write Arnold Smokler, MNMUS, 7917 Hatteras La, Springfield, VA 22151-2410 or ph.(703) 321-8888. Bulletin Board Phone (703) 321-8070

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS (MCACE) ..... Will meet the first Wednesday of the month beginning in Julyat 7:30pm at the Davis Memorial Library on Democracy Blvd. in Bethesda, MD.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMODORE COMPUTER SOCIETY (MCCCS)..Meets the 2nd Wed. ea. mo. (7:15pm-9:45) at Eastern Intermediate School, 300 Univ. Blvd. East (at Franklin St) Silver Spring MD. All are welcome. For info: (202)291-2189, (301)474-8578.

NEC PC-8201 NATIONAL USER GROUP..... Meets Thurs. Aug. 21, 7 pm at the Davis Library in Bethesda, MD. Open to all. See new software, hardware, ROM-based programs. Call Alan Pollack (D.C. area) 363-2244 or Jules Gesang (301) 922-0767.

NO. VA OSBORNE USERS GROUP.....Generally meets the 2nd Wed. of the month at 7pm at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA. For more info. call Bill Kost (703) 569-2213 (eves.)

NO. VA. ATARI USERS GROUP..NOVATARI meets 2nd Sunday of ea. month (5:30-8:30) at WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT, 6802 Industrial Rd, Springfield, VA. Newsletter (CURRENT NOTES), BBS, pub. domain lib., gp. buys. $15/yr. Call Joe Waters,(703)450-4761

ROCKVILLE VIC/64 USERS GP.. The Rockville Commodore Users Group meets the 3rd Thurs. at the Wheaton H. S. cafeteria, 12601 Dalewood Drive, Wheaton, MD, in July & Aug. at 7:00pm, other months at 7:30. For info. call Tom Pounds at 424-2076

SANYO USERS GROUP OF WASHINGTON.... Meets the 2nd Wed. of mo. at the Davis Library (6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, MD) from 7:15-10:00pm. We have a newsletter, public domain library, SIGS. Call (301)469-6460 or (703)323-9663 for info.

TEXAS INSTRU. USER GP. MEMBERS & OWNERS... Delphi members can access the TI Information Network by going to GROUP TIIN. For all types TI computers. Messages exchanged, help files & freeware available.

(Continued on page 8)

Seth Trotman (right) discusses POPnet with assistant Mike Hardin

POPnet owner Seth Trotman

POPnet

the New Interactive Bulletin Board

We've found a new way to beat those August blahs, and try something a little different at the same time. Instead of reading a book, try tapping into POPnet.

POPnet is new to the Washington area; the only other POPnet system is in California, where it is a big success. We hesitate to call it a bulletin board, because that implies a one- person-and-computer relationship. Rather, POPnet is fun -- like having an old fashioned party-line phone, only this time you are allowed to listen and join in if you want.

All you need is a modem. It is designed to communicate with virtually any home computer (asynchronous communications at 300 or 1200 baud - 8 bit, no parity) using almost any communications software (and there are some good ones in the public domain). After you connect with the system, you have a choice of listening and joining the CB channels, going to a private CB channel, checking the bulletin board for messages, sending mail to another registered user, playing a single-user game, joining or starting a multi-player game, or checking out the list of registered users and reading a little about who's who -- a short biographical sketch entered by the individual telling a little about himself (such as his hobbies, computer type, and three wishes if he had them). It is fascinating reading!

The interesting thing about POPnet is that only the SYSOP (system operator -- bulletin board owner) knows who you are. When you join, you invent a "handle" (code name) and that is how you are identified whenever you log on. Makes you wonder about "Doctor Sneeze", "Fallen Angel", "Mr. Nice-Guy", and "Redneck", doesn't it? But that also makes it fun, because you can be anyone you want.

On a recent day we logged on as a guest (as a guest you can read the bulletin boards, listen on the CB channels, or chat with a single registered user who is online -- you don't have access to the other features, but it gives you a chance to try the system out at no charge). As we were reading the directions, someone named "Pilferer" came on with a friendly "Hi!". Since a guest's handle is automatically a "G" followed by the number of the phone line he is on, Pilferer knew we were guests and evidently wasn't surprised when we couldn't figure out how to answer him. We were afraid he would give up and leave, but he came back on after a a short wait and gave us directions on which keys to press to get to the "Chat" area so we could talk. We made a lot of errors trying to communicate at first (watch pressing that "enter" key unnecessarily!). He was operating from an Apple IIe; we have an IBM PC. No problem at all. We were at 300 baud and things worked find. We tried it again later at 1200 baud, but seemed to get some line noise. Being beginners, 300 baud was plenty

(Continued on page 10)

USER GROUPS--

TI USER GP. MEMBERS & OWNERS... CompuServe members can access a Nat. TI Forum by entering GO TIFORUM. TI Forum supports all types TI computers. Messages exchanged, help files & freeware available.

VICAP (VIC APPRECIATORS).....invites VIC-20 users to expand their knowledge of Commodore computing with a VICAP Active Member project. VICAP is a dues-free helpful peer group. Details 434-6944.

W. MONTGOMERY C-64 USERS.....We share experiences and hold presentations at meetings, publish a newsletter, maintain a software library, and receive product discounts. Come share with us! Call (301) 983-0414

WASHINGTON AREA COMMODORE 64 USERS GROUP...Meetings open to the public. Members receive our newsletter & use our software library. Meetings are usu. held the 3rd Sat. of the mo. but next meeting is Aug. 23. Call (703) 536-3327 for info.

WASHINGTON AREA TEXAS INSTRUMENTS PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER USER GROUP.....Monthly meetings, public domain library, newsletter, group purchase of hardware and software. For information call (202)244-7477 (eves), (202)347-8392 (days)

YOUR USER GROUP ADS FREE...User groups can advertise their meetings FREE in PC-ads. We encourage the friendship and help offered by local groups and urge groups to place their free listing with us. Call 670-1777 for information.

Info-Bits

NEW USER GROUP

The new K STREET PC USERS GROUP (for IBM & compatibles) is planning on expanding its territory to Bethesda this month. A tentative first meeting of the BETHESDA PC USERS GROUP is scheduled for Thurs. Aug. 7th at 12:00 noon. Both groups will hold lunchtime meetings for the convenience of those who don't want to go out again at night once they get home. The location of the Bethesda meeting has not been decided at press time. The K STREET PC USERS GROUP meets Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 each week in Farragut Square (on the K Street side of the park -- look for the red ground cloth and diskettes being exchanged). For more information on both groups, call Roger Cutler at 493-8824 weekdays 10-4.

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MEETING CHANGES

There will be no meeting of the DEC RAINBOW USERS GROUP in August. The next meeting will be held on Tues. Sept. 9th. The group generally meets the second Tues. of the month at USUHS (Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences) on the grounds of the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, MD at 7:00pm. For more information call 949-1560 or 280-4404.

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Info-Bits

SOMETHING TO DO

FUTURE ENTERPRISES offers free demonstrations of popular software products in their Washington, D.C. offices. Representatives from different companies will demonstrate the software and answer questions. The August schedule is Capital Systems -- Solomon III (accounting) on Aug. 12 and 26, 5:00-6:00pm;, Microrim -- R:Base System 5 (database) on Aug. 13 and 28, 5:00-6:00pm., and Ashton-Tate -- dBase III/Plus (database) on Aug. 20, 12:00-1:00pm. All demonstrations are held at 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 1301, Washington, D.C. Call 662-7676 for more information.

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REPAIR DISCOUNTS

PERSONAL COMPUTER REPAIR, INC. has let us know that they will give a 10% discount on their service contracts to user group members (higher discount if several are bought at the same time). They service most kinds of computers over the entire metropolitan area, with carry-in, pick up and delivery, and on-site repair. Call Brett Cotton at 255-0760 for more information.

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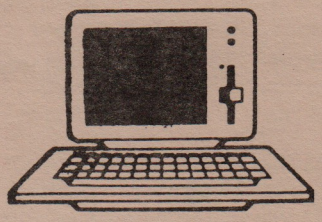
Software Tutor Service



offers beginning and advanced lessons tailored to your needs in MS DOS, DBASE II, and WORDSTAR. All classes are small and feature hands-on instruction. The cost is $50 for a 2 1/2 hour class.

Call 384-9566 after 5 p.m. for details and reservations.

Tax Mailbag

by Cornel Mhley, CPA

QUESTION: I am employed as an engineer for a consulting firm and do a lot of my planning work on a PC in the office. Could I purchase a computer for use in my home for business purposes and claim a tax deduction for the purchase?

Answer: The first step in deciding if a home computer qualifies for tax benefits is to determine if it is used at a "regular business establishment". If the answer is yes, then a PC used at a business location will not be saddled with restrictions on the tax benefits available.

IRS assumes that a PC used exclusively at a business location will have minimal personal use. Since the home is not a business location, i.e., for a self employed person, then the following conditions must exist before a tax deduction may be claimed: 1.) the PC must be required as a condition of employment, and, 2.) the PC must be used for the convenience of the employer.

In addition, the computer must be used more than 50% of time for a trade or business usage to qualify for the normal five year ACRS tax depreciation of 15%, 22%, 21%, and 21% respectively.

An employee must have as a standard condition of employment the aspects of purchasing a computer to use for business purposes. Internal Revenue Service states that "all the facts and circumstances of the job use will be evaluated" so that from all independent appearances, the employee is expected to purchase and use a computer for reasonable job performance. The usage must also be a direct benefit to the employer, rather than to the employee.

The condition of employment test will vary for every occupation. For example, an engineer who occasionally takes work home rather than working at the office will not qualify, as opposed to a sales manager who is continually traveling and has to complete complicated proposals while away from the home office as well as evaluate complex data from other sales regions. Facts and circumstances will be the ultimate judge, but since this tax regulation has been untested in the past, the taxpayer should be diligent as to others in the same profession who are claiming business deductions for a home computer, so that an industry-wide practice would surely carry some weight in making a decision to claim the tax benefits.

The following information is also required to be reported on tax returns claiming business deductions for home computers beginning in 1986:

- the date the computer was placed in service;
- the percentage of business usage;
- whether evidence is available to support the percentage of business usage;
- whether the evidence is written.

The best approach where a computer deduction is being taken for less than full business usage is to maintain a written record or log of business use with entries made at or near the time of use. The minimal information required in the log would be:

Tax Mailbag (Cont.)

- date of use;
- name of user;
- amount of time used;
- business purpose.

In this way, a proper allocation of business usage to total computer usage may be computed and will satisfy the documentation standard.

NOTE: This topic was addressed in the October 1, 1985 issue of PC-ADS; however, this current response elaborates on the recordkeeping requirements to a greater degree.

★

(The author is a Certified Public Accountant, who maintains a tax practice in Rockville, MD. This article is intended as general information only. It is recommended that you consult with your professional tax advisor for application of these concepts to your particular situation.)

--- Tax Mailbag is a feature of PC-ads. Further inquiries about this article or previous articles may be made by contacting Mr. Mhley at (301) 424-0966 or you may send them to Mr. Mhley, c/o PC-ads, P.O. Box 5779, Rockville, MD 20855.

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Info-Bits

ATTENTION VENDORS

The PERSONAL COMPUTING ASSOCIATION of the University of Maryland is well underway planning this year's COMPUTERFEST '86. It will be held at the Adele H. Stamp Union on the campus this year on Sat. October 25th. In addition to different local vendors, user groups will have booths to show what they are doing, answer questions and have public domain software available, and there will be speakers and seminars throughout the day. Some of the topics to be covered are "Fidonet" (a bulletin board system), "Small Business Computing", "Better Use of IBM PC's", "Desktop Publishing", and "Computers and Music." Lots of other topics are planned. If you are a vendor or a user group and would like more information about tables for the event, call Doug Mohney at 350- 1437.

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CLASSES

On Sept. 22, the Northern Virginia Regional Center of the University of Virginia will introduce a series on hands-on microcomputer workshops to be held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel (Dulles Airport) and Holiday Inn at Fair Oaks (Fairfax, VA). These day-long workshops are something new they are beginning to offer, and will feature sessions in IBM PC Starter, Lotus 1-2-3, Symphony, dBase III Plus, Using Your IBM XT/AT, and several word processing packages. Tuition, including reference manual, complimentary diskettes, lunch and breaks is $235. For more information or to receive a brochure, call Esther Berg at (703) 876-6925.

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POPnet (Cont.)

fast enough for us.

Pilferer seemed to enjoy POPnet a lot, and was willing to answer any of our questions. (At the time we called, he was the only one on. Another time in the evening, there were 4 registered members and two guests.) In addition to chatting with him, we read the notices on the bulletin board, and checked out other information about registering, how to use POPnet, etc. (Right now they are giving interested first time users a temporary password and 2 hours of free playing time so they can try out all the different parts of POPnet. Just call them at the office number at the end of this article, or if SYSOP is on the system when you log on as a guest, "yell" for him (see below) and he will be happy to talk to you.) According to the users manual, POPnet is intended for light, clean entertainment and family fun. We asked Pilferer how he would he describe POPnet. "It's like a festival here," he said. "It's a nutty kind of board ... a gathering of some of the greatest minds we will ever know." That sounds like a testimonial to us!

POPnet is operated out of a small office in Gaithersburg, MD, by Seth Trotman. He graduated in June from Magruder High School, and hopes to attend Virginia Tech sometime in the future. (In his absence, his friend Mike Hardin will be taking charge.) At 18, Seth is already an entrepreneur, joining forces with his father to purchase the system. Seth saw POPnet mentioned on a bulletin board he was using, gave them a call, and after going over information mailed to them, he and his father went to California to see the system there in operation. They

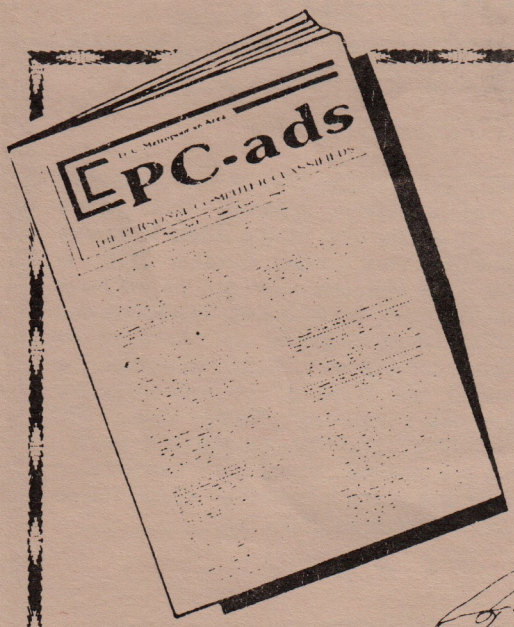
POPnet (Cont.)

decided that although there are a lot of free bulletin boards in the Washington area, there is nothing similar at the price they could offer. So on May 8th of this year, POPnet began operation in Washington.

The program was written by Frank Orem and sold through Kinesis Corp. of Walnut Creek, California. It runs on an Intel System 310, with 640K and a 10 MB hard disk. There are currently 8 phone lines going into it, with plans to bring that number up to 14 by the end of the summer (it can handle up to 23). It currently contains 12 multi-player games, ranging from Adventure and Checkers, to Poker and Traders, a popular stock market game in which stocks are traded, corporations formed and mergers take place. New games arrive from time to time. In fact, another is in the testing stages in California (by a user advisory board) and should be added soon. The one thing the bulletin board cannot do is upload and download software, but Seth said that that feature is available on so many other bulletin boards in the area that they didn't feel their subscribers were missing anything -- they feel that most people join for the interaction they get between users.

A big question people have is "What are the costs?" There is a one-time, non-refundable registration fee of $10, which includes two hours of free playing time. Currently the charges are $1/hour for 5pm-2am, and $.75/hour for 2am-5pm (although they are thinking of changing it to a flat rate per hour). The computer keeps track of the time logged on down to the second, so there is no "rounding off" done. Payments are made in advance, and when you have "spent" the time you paid for, the

(more)



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POPnet (Cont.)

system lets you know and automatically cuts you off until more time is bought. You can also be a "lifeline" subscriber for up to four months. The charge for this is $8 (per month) for unlimited time during the month. Special arrangements can be made to use Visa, MasterCard or Choice. (If you join and then change your mind, move out of the area, etc., money sent to pay for hours is refundable to the extent it hasn't been used.)

But, POPnet is also offering grand opening specials. If you send $10 – $49.99, you get 10% more playing time. Send $50 – $99.99, and get 20% more. And for over $100, you get 25% more playing time. They are also offering a special discount to PC– Ads readers. If you send in the return address logo from any issue of PC–Ads, they will reduce the one–time registration fee to only $5 (and this will still include the two hours free playing time).

POPnet seems to be very popular with those who already subscribe –– there is generally at least one person there ready to talk or play games. The most used hours, according to Seth, are those between 8 and 11pm, although almost any time we tried it, someone was there to welcome us. Not only do we think it has possibilities for teenagers and adults (1/3 of the current subscribers are adults), but for those who can't get out of the house for one reason or another, it allows contact with others. Who knows who you might meet on it!

To reach POPnet by modem, call 869–2000 (Montgomery County and Washington, D.C.), or 948–4370 (metro area). The office phone number is 840–8089, and their address is RST Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 4062, Gaithersburg, MD 20878–0062.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR GUESTS

As with anything new, using POPnet can be a little difficult at first. Through experimentation, we came up with these hints that may make it easier for you.

1.) Be careful about pressing "enter". POPnet has a tree structure, with the main menu as the trunk, and the various departments as branches. Pressing "enter" takes you back a step closer to the main menu.

2.) To see if anyone else is on POPnet, get to the chat mode and press "P" –– it will list the handles of everyone on.

3.) To talk to someone who is paging you when you are not in the "chat" mode, you can either keep pressing enter to get back to the main menu, and then go out the chat branch from there, or you can type "¤*handle of person calling*" (that's –– ¤*name*) and talk to them directly.

4.) To "yell" for the sysop, get to the "chat" mode, then hit "Y' for yell and then the number shown next to the word SYSOP. It will show on his screen that someone is paging him, no matter where he is in the system.

5.) When it lists something and says "(last)" or "(more) and stops, press the space bar. From (last) it will go to back to the menu; from (more) it will continue to scroll.

6.) NUI on the bulletin board is New User Information.

Good Luck!

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Info-Bits

FREE SEMINAR TOPIC

PROLOG –– A DIFFERENT KIND OF PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE is the topic of the educational seminar sponsored by the CAPITAL PC USERS GROUP. Mark Minasi will talk about this programming language that is used for Artificial Intelligence. The seminar will be held on Saturday morning, August 16, 9:30am – 12:30pm at the Uniformed Services Univ. of the Health Sciences (UHUHS), Auditorium B, on the grounds of the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, MD. For more information and directions, call their recorded message at (301) 656–8372. These seminars are free and open to the public.

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GOVT. COMPUTER EXPO VISITED

According to those we talked to at the GOVERNMENT COMPUTER EXPO in mid–July, the show was a success. There were a large number of exhibits (more than we have seen at other shows we have been to), the displays were high–powered, and the exhibitors were very willing to talk about their products. It was almost entirely an information–only show with little or no selling. Most of it was geared toward the big user, although there were several local Washington area companies represented. One was Future Enterprises. They are known for their training classes and free software demonstrations (see Info–Bit in this issue), but told us about their newly formed consulting division (watch for an article on them in a future issue).

Back in a far corner was space that had been donated to non–profit organizations and user groups. One of the few groups that took advantage of it was the Capital PC User Group. We spoke to Doug Thompson, editor of the Monitor, the group's newsletter. He was manning the table for the afternoon and said a lot of interested people had stopped by and picked up literature. Also in the same area was Stan Dvoskin from the Washington Independent Computer Consultants Assoc. His table was filled with their bright red directories and information flyers.

One item that had been mentioned in the Expo brochure was that there would be copying of public domain programs for people who brought their own disks. Because we were looking for it, we finally did find the unlabeled table where the diskettes were being copied, but it was hard to find. Evidently there were other determined people too, because the woman manning the table said it had been busy all day. Also in the same area were free continuous presentations on popular software in the Video Theater. We saw several people taking advantage of them, even though it was late in the day.

In all, we would say that the show was especially interesting for the big user, the Sheraton was very elegant and convenient to the metro, and a lot of people made the trip. It was also nice of the organizers to make space available to the user groups, and it was too bad more didn't take advantage of it (although we understand there is some difficulty getting people to man a booth in a volunteer organization at a show that is held during the week during working hours). We were able to get some information on several organizations, and may be using that as the basis for some articles in the future.

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Info-Bits

MEETING TOPIC

The Game SIG is sponsoring the August meeting of WASHINGTON APPLE PI, and that should prove to be interesting. Separate programs will be held on Apple // and Macintosh gaming. The meetings will be held on August 23, with Disketeria transactions, memberships, etc. from 8:45–9:30, business meeting from 9:00–9:30, and programs after that. The location is UHUHS (Uniformed Services Univ. of the Health Sciences, on the grounds of the Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Call 654–8060 for more information.

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MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

The EPSON CAPITAL COMPUTER ORGANIZATION (ECCO) has changed the location of it's monthly meeting. They will now meet at the Fellowship Hall, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA. They still meet the second Wed. of the month.

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MEETING TOPIC

The topic for the August meetings of the CAPITAL PC USERS GROUP (IBM and compatibles) is "WordPerfect". The meetings will be held August 11 and 12 (the program is the same both nights) at 7:00pm at the Uniformed Services Univ. of the Health Sciences (USUHS) on the grounds of the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, MD. Meetings are open to the public. Call (301) 656– 8372 for recorded information and directions.

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